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APP # 700035

A. List of Restoration Activities

The purpose of this project is to prevent motorized vehicle use within the newly designated Yuki Wilderness Area, and more specifically, the four mile long Horse Pasture Ridge access route and two mile spur ridge. On the Horse Pasture Ridge access route, an excavator would remove fill material at three swale / saddle sites. The future desired condition would be a naturally appearing topography somewhat similar to its original contours and at the same time creating steep enough slopes to prevent OHV travel. The excavated material would be spread out along the access route on relatively level ground and mounded on each side of excavated site to create berms. The excavated banks would be straw mulched and any nearby woody debris would be scattered across the slopes.

Nearby the western most gate, the excavator would completely remove the route for approximately 200 feet by pulling material up from the lower bank and placing the material against the upper bank. The future desired condition at this site would be a naturally appearing slope resembling the original contours prior to the access route's construction. Nearby woody debris would be scattered across the slope.

At the eastern most gate, the existing steel post and cable vehicle barrier would be extended on one side by approximately 50 feet and the other side by about 100 feet.

In 2008, steel well casings were concreted into the ground at two sites along this access route. To prevent OHV's from being winched around the end posts, the BLM would weld steel bars onto the existing posts. The bars would extend out horizontally about four feet past each edge of the route to prevent vehicles from being hoisted around the posts.

The spur ride access route heading southwest from the Horse Pasture Ridge access route would also be treated by using a hand crew to cover the barren ground with nearby clippings from live and dead and down vegetation for approximately 500 feet.

B. How the Proposed Project Relates to OHV Recreation

The proposed project would prevent OHV recreation from occurring within the designated Yuki Wilderness. The wilderness area is officially closed to motorized vehicle use.

C. Size of Project Site

The Horse Pasture Ridge access route passes through BLM lands for approximately four miles and averages about 12 feet wide. The three swale work sites on this access route range from about 50 to 100 feet length. The portion of this access route to be fully decommissioned is approximately 200 feet in length. The spur ridge vegetative cover project is nearly 500 feet in length and averages about 10 feet in width.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Monitoring will consist of two photo point sites at each of the eight work locations. Photos will taken just prior to and immediately after each year's deer hunting season. The photos will determine the success of the project by documenting whether or not vehicle tracks are observed on the wrong side of the barriers. The second objective of photo documentation is to insure that unacceptable soil erosion is not occurring at any of the eight work locations. Photo point documentation will occur for at least five years after completion of the project.

E. List of Reports

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

Law enforcement and/or other BLM officials will monitor the work sites at least twice annually, once prior to hunting season, and once after hunting season. Additional site visits are likely to occur during hunting season as well. The purpose of the

patrols is to determine whether or not the vehicle barriers are effective in keeping OHV's out the wilderness area. Another reason for site visits is to take photos at specific points to check for vehicle tracks and monitor potential for soil erosion.

BLM staff will also conduct at least one overflight each year of the work locations to observe signs of vehicle intrusion into the wilderness area.

Additional Documentation for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009 6/2/2009
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office
Application: Restoration

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Yuki Wilderness Area Restoration Project](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Yuki Restoration Project Aerial Photo](#)

[Yuki Restoration Photos 1 and 2](#)

[Yuki Restoration Photos 3 and 4](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office
Application: Restoration

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Arcata Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The purpose of this project is to prevent motorized vehicle use within the newly designated Yuki Wilderness Area, and more specifically, the four mile long Horse Pasture Ridge access route and two mile spur ridge. On the Horse Pasture Ridge access route, an excavator would remove fill material at three swale / saddle sites. The future desired condition would be a naturally appearing topography somewhat similar to its original contours and at the same time creating steep enough slopes to prevent OHV travel. The excavated material would be spread out along the access route on relatively level ground and mounded on each side of excavated site to create berms. The excavated banks would be straw mulched and any nearby woody debris would be scattered across the slopes.</p> <p>Nearby the western most gate, the excavator would completely remove the route for approximately 200 feet by pulling material up from the lower bank and placing the material against the upper bank. The future desired condition at this site would be a naturally appearing slope resembling the original contours prior to the access route's construction. Nearby woody debris would be scattered across the slope.</p> <p>At the eastern most gate, the existing steel post and cable vehicle barrier would be extended on one side by approximately 50 feet and the other side by about 100 feet.</p> <p>In 2008, steel well casings were concreted into the ground at two sites along this access route. To prevent OHV's from being winched around the end posts, the BLM would weld steel bars onto the existing posts. The bars would extend out horizontally about four feet past each edge of the route to prevent vehicles from being hoisted around the posts.</p> <p>The spur ride access route heading southwest from the Horse Pasture Ridge access route would also be treated by using a hand crew to cover the barren ground with nearby clippings from live and dead and down vegetation for approximately 500 feet.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Recreation Planner	120.000	51.000	HRS	6,120.00	0.00	6,120.00
	Other-Maintenance Worker	50.000	40.000	HRS	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	Other-Law Enforcement Ranger	60.000	60.000	HRS	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office
Application: Restoration

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Geologist	24.000	43.000	HRS	0.00	1,032.00	1,032.00
	Archeologist	24.000	43.000	HRS	0.00	1,032.00	1,032.00
	Other-Fire Crew	300.000	30.000		0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
	Total for Staff				9,720.00	13,064.00	22,784.00
2	Contracts						
	Heavy Equipment Operator	100.000	200.000	HRS	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Restoration Crew	20.000	40.000	HRS	800.00	0.00	800.00
	Total for Contracts				20,800.00	0.00	20,800.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Steel Post	30.000	100.000	EA	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Other-Wire Rope	200.000	4.000	FT	800.00	0.00	800.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				3,800.00	0.00	3,800.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
	Other-travel	60.000	30.000	DAY	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
7	Administrative Costs						
	Total Program Expenses				36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: BLM - Arcata Field Office
Application: Restoration

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	9,720.00	13,064.00	22,784.00	
2	Contracts	20,800.00	0.00	20,800.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	3,800.00	0.00	3,800.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		36,120.00	13,064.00	49,184.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

There would be no impact on wetlands, navigable waters, and sensitive habitats and species (including threatened and endangered species) as they do not exist in or nearby the project area and the proposed project would have no affect or impact on these resource values. Refer to the project's environmental assessment (pages 4-9) for more information.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

Foreseeable future projects involve access route decommissioning and installation of vehicle barriers throughout the Yuki wilderness area where necessary to prevent vehicle trespass and improve wilderness characteristics. This particular project would add incrementally to improvement of the area's wilderness character. As more access routes become closed to motorized vehicle trespass, hunters would be forced to access the wilderness by foot or horseback instead of motorized vehicles, or they may choose to hunt elsewhere or not at all. The cumulative impact of this project as it relates to increased noise or traffic is negligible. Refer to page 9 of the environmental assessment for more information.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

The project would reduce or eliminate future erosion at several swale locations. Preventing vehicle use on the Horse Pasture Ridge access route and one of its spur ridges would reduce soil erosion in these locations. In the short term, negligible amounts of sediment may be generated at the treated swale sites immediately following excavation work, however, this effect would be short-lived and localized as mulch and vegetation cover would likely limit the erosion potential at the sites. Using hand labor to cover a portion of the spur ridge with vegetation would prevent further vehicle use and reduce future soil erosion. Extending post and cable barriers would have no affect on soils as this site is on relatively level ground. Decommissioning a portion of the Horse Pasture Ridge access route would reduce soil erosion by preventing vehicle use in this particular area. Refer to page 8 of the environmental assessment and the Soil Conservation Plan for more information.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

The project area is not within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. One of the objectives of the proposed project is to improve scenic qualities. Excavating three swale sites, covering a portion of a spur ridge with vegetation, and decommissioning a short segment of the Horse Pasture Ridge access route would all improve scenic qualites in the long term.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The proposed would not result in any indirect significant impacts. The primary user group (deer hunters) have historically travelled through the project area via motorized vehicles. Because the project area is within a designated wilderness area, motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Deer hunters who wish to continue hunting in this area would be forced to access the area by foot or horseback. Alternative hunting areas legally accessible by vehicle exist nearby. The proposed project is not expected to increase visitor use, however, backpackers and equestrians may begin to use the project area slightly more, knowing that vehicle traffic has been eliminated.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Yuki Wilderness Restoration](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 7

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☐ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☐ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [2]
☐ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
☐ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Adverse impacts to the areas wilderness character would result from motorized vehicles continued use into this area which is designated closed. Adverse impacts would also result from vehicles trespassing onto adjacent private property, where riparian areas and the Middle Fork Eel wild and scenic river exist.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☐ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☒ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Public Law 109-362, dated Oct. 17, 2006 entitled "Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act". BLM's 1992 Record of Decision for the Arcata Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement designated the project area closed to motorized vehicle use.

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☐ Use of native plants and materials
- ☐ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

The objective of this project is to prevent continuing OHV use in the Yuki Wilderness Area by constructing vehicle barriers. Information about the rules and regulations within wilderness will be posted at the boundary. Annual monitoring will be conducted both on-the-ground and aerially to detect OHV intrusion.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Public Law 109-362 dated October 17, 2006 designated the Yuki Wilderness Area. BLM's 1996 Record of Decision for the Arcata Resource Area Resource Management Plan Amendment designated the project area closed to motorized vehicle use.

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

The BLM manual 8560 entitled " Management of Designated Wilderness Areas" and Handbook Series H-8560-1 state it is BLM's policy that "Wilderness areas are managed so as to preserve their wilderness character..."

Implementing this project will prevent motorized vehicle use within this wilderness area and thus protect wilderness values. The BLM is committed to protecting the wilderness resource in this area, which means annual monitoring of the project area in future years to ensure the vehicle barriers are effective. The BLM Arcata Assistant Field Manager has documented BLM's commitment to continued monitoring of this project via an email dated February 18, 2009 which is on file at the Arcata office.

The BLM Arcata Field Office FY 2008 budget for wilderness management was \$169,000. The base allocation models for FY 2009 and subsequent years are anticipated to be similar. Effectiveness monitoring for this project is projected to cost \$1,000 annually.

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7.

The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Conference calls occurred between the Forest Service and the California Wilderness Coalition. A meeting was held with one of the adjacent private landowners where OHV trespass occurred. A public meeting was held on March 24, 2009 to gather public input. A new release was subsequent news article appeared in the local newspaper on March 10, 2009.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☒ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
- ☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
- ☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
- ☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ No (No points)
- ☐ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- ☒ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)

- ☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- ☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)